

## WAIVER OF VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

*Exchanges of notes at Helsinki October 22, November 6 and 30, and  
December 7, 1925*

*Entered into force January 1, 1926*

*Became obsolete upon entry into force of agreement of July 7, August 26,  
and December 14, 1955<sup>1</sup>*

Department of State files

*The American Minister to the Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No. 65

HELSINGFORS, October 22, 1925

MR. MINISTER:

I have the honor to refer to your Excellency's Note numbered 17677, dated October 12, 1925, and to our conversation of October 19, 1925, regarding the question of waiving fees for non-immigrant passport visas and the application therefor.

It is now the understanding of my Government that after January 1, 1926, the Government of the United States will collect no fee for visaing passports or executing application therefor in case of citizens of Finland desiring to visit the United States (including the insular possessions), who are not immigrants, as defined in the Immigration Act of the United States of 1924, namely:

“(1) a government official, his family, attendants, servants, and employees, (2) an alien visiting the United States temporarily as a tourist or temporarily for business or pleasure, (3) an alien in continuous transit through the United States, (4) an alien lawfully admitted to the United States who later goes in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory, (5) a bona fide alien seaman serving as such on a vessel arriving at a port of the United States and seeking to enter temporarily the United States solely in the pursuit of his calling as a seaman, and (6) an alien entitled to enter the United States solely to carry on trade under and in pursuance of the provisions of a present existing treaty of commercial navigation”;

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<sup>1</sup> 9 UST 1175; TIAS 4102.

and from the same date the Government of Finland will collect no fee for visaing passports or application therefor in the case of non-immigrant citizens of the United States of like classes desiring to visit Finland or its possessions. The visas authorized by the Government of Finland are valid for a period of three months subject to free renewal for an additional period of three months.

Please accept, Mr. Minister, the assurance of my highest consideration.

ALFRED J. PEARSON

His Excellency

Mr. K. G. IDMAN,  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs,*  
*Helsingfors*

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*The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Minister*

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES  
ÉTRANGÈRES

No. 19380

HELSINKI, November 6, 1925

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note No. 65, dated October 22, 1925, in which you state that the Government of the United States has consented to an agreement about the waiving of passport fees, in the form proposed in my note No. 17677 of October 12th, viz. that the Government of Finland and of the United States will, after January 1, 1926, collect no fee for visaing passports or executing application therefor in case of citizens of Finland and the United States respectively, who, in the capacity of non-immigrants, belong to any of the six classes enumerated in your note. The Finnish Government is, further, willing to grant to persons of the above description visas that are valid for a period of three months and subject to free renewal for an additional period of three months, provided that complete reciprocity, that is to say a validity of six months for the visas in question, will be observed on the side of the authorities of the United States, as understood in our recent conversation, which I have the honour to request you kindly to confirm in writing.

Please accept, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurance of my highest consideration.

K. G. IDMAN

M. ALFRED J. PEARSON,  
*Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire*  
*des États-Unis d'Amérique,*  
*Helsinki.*

*The American Minister to the Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No. 71

NOVEMBER 30, 1925

MR. MINISTER:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note numbered 19380, dated November 6, 1925, in which you confirm our conversation of October 19, 1925, regarding the mutual waiver by the Government of the United States and the Government of Finland of fees for non-immigrant passport visas and the application therefor. It is understood that those persons are to be considered as non-immigrants who come under the six classes enumerated in my note numbered 65, dated October 22, 1925.

I desire to state that the arrangements, which the Finnish Government has been kind enough to make in order to grant to non-immigrant Americans a free visa valid for three months subject to free renewal for an additional period of three months, are satisfactory to my Government. The Government of the United States will in its turn grant a free visa valid for six months to those Finnish citizens of the six classes of non-immigrants who desire to visit the United States.

I am informed that my Government has already issued the necessary instructions in order that this arrangement between Finland and the United States may become effective January 1, 1926. It would be appreciated if the Finnish Government would also complete its final arrangements to this effect.

Please accept, Mr. Minister, the assurance of my highest consideration.

ALFRED J. PEARSON

His Excellency

Mr. K. G. IDMAN,  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs,*  
*Helsingfors.*

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*The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Minister*MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES  
ÉTRANGÈRES

No. 21424

HELSINKI, the 7th of December 1925

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th of November last and to confirm the agreement, regarding the mutual waiving of passport visa fees for non-immigrants and the applications therefor, hereby concluded between the two Governments, which agreement will come in force January 1st 1926.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has already given necessary instruction to the competent authorities.

Please accept, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurance of my high consideration

K. G. IDMAN

M. ALFRED J. PEARSON,

*Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire,  
des États-Unis d'Amérique  
Helsinki.*